



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

May 16, 2023

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I
Mr. Matthew Durham, Chairman, District II
Mr. Don Mize, Vice Chairman, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, Chairman Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

Call to Order

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Durham asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Markovich led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 - 0, to approve the May 2, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.

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Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root requested a motion to amend the agenda to remove **Ordinance 2023-12** and **Resolution 2023-08** related to Project Iron Man.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to amend the agenda to remove **Ordinance 2023-12** and **Resolution 2023-08**.

Mr. Root provided an update regarding **Ordinance 2023-07**, informing Council that the company name has been released as Meyn America, LLC, formally referred to as Project Made.

Mr. Root also made note of the several public hearings and third reading of ordinances on the agenda, informing Council that when it comes to third readings, the ordinance number could be used as reference instead of reading them over again.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock requested a motion from Council to remove the request to purchase two New Holland tractors with side mount side mowers for placement on the June 6, 2023 Council agenda.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to remove the request to purchase two New Holland tractors with side mount side mowers for placement on the June 6, 2023 Council agenda.

Proclamations

PROCLAMATION 2023-03 A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approve 5 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2023-03** on first and final reading.

Public Comment Session

If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.

1. Mr. Bob Hoover and Ms. Janet Barwick addressed Council with their request for funding for the Oconee Humane Society and their SNAC program.
2. Mr. Mickey Haney spoke in opposition to FY2023-2024 Budget, noting he would like to see the total amount lowered.
3. Ms. Linda Bock addressed Council in regards to illegal immigrants
4. Ms. Lillian Lusk spoke in favor of **Ordinance 2023-09**.
5. Mr. Jake Marcengill addressed Council with his opinion that a Planning Commission member is using their position for personal gain related to the proposed junkyard ordinance.

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Council Members Comments

Mr. Durham addressed all citizens who spoke during public comment.

Mr. Durham spoke at length regarding Mr. Marcengill's opinion that a Planning Commission member is using their position for personal gain.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to direct County Administration to investigate Mr. Marcengill's concerns, noting he would like for himself and Mr. Mize to be apart of the investigation.

Mr. Davis noted that he would never want a committee member to use their position for personal gain and went on to add that he is not in favor of Mr. Durham's motion and believes that this matter should be investigated by Mr. Root, Mr. Coley, and Ms. Brock.

Mr. Elliott noted to Mr. Durham that he would not be voting on this motion, stating that members of boards and commissions are doing it for service and not for money, and that he does not believe that there should be a "witch hunt" of a committee member that is serving voluntarily.

Mr. Durham stated that he believes it is important to have Council representation when this allegation is investigated.

Mr. Mize added that he believes a discussion with County Attorney, Mr. Root, should happen to gain legal advice as to how to proceed with this matter.

Mr. Durham then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to amend the agenda to include this matter to be discussed during Executive Session at tonight's meeting and withdrew his previous motion related to investigating this allegation.

Mr. Root commented that a super majority vote would be needed in order to add this item to tonight's Executive Session.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Durham and Mr. Hart opposed] to amend the previously stated motion to place this item on the June 6, 2023 agenda to allow time to gather information related to this allegation.

Amended motion to include this matter on the June 6, 2023 for discussion during Executive Session approved 4 – 0 [Mr. Elliott abstained from voting].

Mr. Elliott addressed Ms. Lusk regarding her support for **Ordinance 2023-09**.

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Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances *If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams at jennifercadams@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023 so that your participation by may be coordinated.*

ORDINANCE 2023-01 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

Ms. Jennifer Johnson, 10th Circuit Public Defender serving Anderson and Oconee Counties, provided Council with background information as to how her office is funded, then requested meeting with Council to discuss her budgeting needs from the County.

Mr. Durham requested that Ms. Johnson leave her card with Ms. Brock so that he could get in contact with her regarding her request.

No other citizens signed up for Public Comment relating to **Ordinance 2023-01**.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2023-01**.

ORDINANCE 2023-03 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Durham opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2023-03**.

ORDINANCE 2023-05 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FEE-IN-LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND BORGWARNER PDS (USA) INC. (FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS “PROJECT EVPACK AFFILIATE”), DATED AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2017; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

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Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Durham opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2023-05**.

ORDINANCE 2023-07 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND MEYN AMERICA, LLC (PROJECT MADE), ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES (COLLECTIVELY, "COMPANY"); PROVIDING FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; DEVELOPING A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROJECT AS PART OF THE PARK; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE GRANT AGREEMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE FOR PROJECT MADE; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Durham opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2023-07**.

ORDINANCE 2023-08 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY OCONEE COUNTY TO MOUNT NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH, PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY .14 ACRES AND BEING A PORTION OF TAX MAP # 256-00-01-006, AND AUTHORIZING THE RECEIPT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MOUNT NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH, PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY .0034 ACRES AND BEING A PORTION OF TAX MAP # 256-00-04-019; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Durham opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Durham opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Durham closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2023-08**.

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Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2023-05 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-05** on third and final reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-07 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to approve **Ordinance 2023-07** on third and final reading.

Mr. Elliott, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Durham offered welcoming comments to Meyn America, LLC and expressed appreciation to Mr. Jamie Gilbert and the Oconee Economic Alliance office for their work on this project.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

ORDINANCE 2023-08 *[see caption above]*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-08** on third and final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2023-01 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve **Ordinance 2023-01** on second reading.

Mr. Davis made a motion to reimplement the salary step and scale back into the FY2023-2024 budget, that includes police and fire departments.

Mr. Davis went on to express his hopes that Council would continue to work towards increased pay for police, fire and EMS departments, to include addressing compaction of pay within these departments as well.

Mr. Davis voiced his disapproval of putting \$1,374,907.00 in the Council budget with \$1,040,416.00 being set aside for salary study, pay increases, etc. as approved by Council.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to reimplement the salary step and scale back into the FY2023-2024 budget, as previously requested by Mr. Davis.

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Mr. Elliott invited Chief Scott Krein and Sheriff Mike Crenshaw up to express their opinions related to the proposed salary step and scale.

Sheriff Crenshaw is in favor of trying to reach his goal of \$50,000.00 for starting salary for police officers and addressing the compaction of pay within the Sheriff's office and noted that he believes there are some adjustments within the salary step and scale that need to be made but he is in favor of this employee retention plan.

Chief Krein stated to Council that he is very much in favor of the proposed salary step and scale but noted that the base pay needs to be raised to be competitive in the hiring process and that he is losing employees to other agencies that provide benefits such as a salary step and scale.

Mr. Durham noted that the salary step and scale is good but needs adjustments and this is why a motion was passed at the last Council meeting to remove the salary step and scale.

Mr. Elliott inquired as to when the salary study would be complete and if it addresses all departments.

Mr. Durham noted he hopes to have the salary study completed by the fall.

Mr. Hart inquired as to if the 3% raise was given to employees in place of implementing the salary step in scale.

Mr. Durham noted that the 3% raise was to implement to employees on July 1, 2023 to allow time for salary studies and time to help raise key employee pay up to where it needs to be.

Mr. Mize commented that the salary step and scale is a good thing but needs adjustments.

Mr. Durham noted that previous Councils did not address pay scales and only gave cost of living raises in the past, thus making it hard to hire new employees with wages that are ten years old.

Mr. Davis provided additional comments in support of reimplementing the salary step and scale back into the FY 2023-2024 Budget.

Motion to reimplement the salary step and scale back into the FY2023-2024 Budget failed by a vote of 2 – 3 [Mr. Durham, Mr. Mize and Mr. Hart opposed].

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, to amend **Ordinance 2023-01** by decreasing the cost of living raise from 3% to 2% to be implemented on July 1, 2023 and transfer the savings of this decrease to the Council line item reserved for employee raises, bringing it to \$1,712,355.00.

Mr. Durham noted this motion is not to take money from employees but to ensure key employees and departments are adequately funded.

Mr. Elliott noted that inflation is currently at 5% and 3% is under inflation and does not agree with the motion to decrease the cost of living raise to 3%, adding he would like to see it at a 5% raise.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Durham for identification of the areas that are not considered critical so that they know not to expect a raise in the fall.

Mr. Durham noted all areas are critical but there are areas that are at critical staffing levels that need addressing now.

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Motion to amend the budget by decreasing the cost of living raise from 3% to 2% to be implemented on July 1, 2023 and transfer the savings of this decrease to the Council line item reserved for employee raises, bringing it to \$1,712,355.00 approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Davis and Mr. Elliott opposed].

Motion to approve amended **Ordinance 2023-01**, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Davis opposed and Mr. Elliott abstained from voting] on second reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-03 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-03** on second reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 32-222 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO THAT APPLICANTS FOR SUBDIVISIONS THAT ARE DESIGNED TO ACCESS STATE ROADS SHALL SUBMIT TO AND RECEIVE PRELIMINARY / CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRIOR TO RECEIVING FINAL APPROVAL FROM THE OCONEE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-09** on second reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY DISSOLVING THE ARTS AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-10** on second reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-11 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, AS LESSOR, AND THE FOOTHILLS FARMSTEAD, AS LESSEE, IN ORDER TO ADD ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TO THE LEASE PREMISES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-11** on second reading.

First Reading of the Following Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2023-02 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve **Ordinance 2023-02** on second reading.

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Mr. Durham asked if Mr. Jay Schickling, SDOC Chief Financial Officer, if there had been any changes to **Ordinance 2023-02** since their last presentation.

Mr. Schickling noted that the SDOC had reduced their request of funding from Council by \$600,000.00.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

~~**ORDINANCE 2023-12** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND PROJECT IRON MAN, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES (COLLECTIVELY, "COMPANY"); PROVIDING FOR A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; DEVELOPING A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROJECT AS PART OF THE PARK; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.~~

First and Final Reading for the Following Resolutions

~~**RESOLUTION 2023-08** A RESOLUTION PROVIDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, FOR THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT IRON MAN, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES, AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES (COLLECTIVELY, "COMPANY"); PROVIDING FOR A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; CREATING A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO INCLUDE PROJECT PROPERTY IN THE PARK; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE MORE GRANT AGREEMENTS; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.~~

RESOLUTION 2023-09 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UPDATED ANDERSON COUNTY AND OCONEE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Resolution 2023-09** on first and final reading.

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Discussion Regarding Action Items

Discuss and authorize the County Administrator to execute a Recission of Grant Agreement in relation to a grant made by the Oconee County Conservation Bank for the purchase of property commonly referred to as the Lyles Tract.

Mr. Root provided Council with background information on the above request to authorize the County Administrator to execute a Recission of Grant Agreement in relation to a grant made by the Oconee County Conservation Bank (OCCB) for the purchase of property commonly referred to as the Lyles Tract.

Mr. Elliott noted that these funds are not County funds.

Mr. Root confirmed Mr. Elliott's statement.

Mr. Hart inquired if there would be any monetary loss to the original land owner.

Mr. Root responded that there is no monetary loss to the original land owner.

Mr. Durham questioned if the National Forrest Service intends to turn this land into a dove field.

Mr. Root noted there was some concern about this possibility with the OCCB and invited Mr. Mac Stone to provide additional information regarding this request to Council.

Mr. Mac Stone, Naturaland Trust Executive Director, stepped forward and provided details regarding the recission of this grant agreement between Naturaland Trust and the Oconee County Conservation Bank Board, confirming that the National Forrest Service has indicated they have no intention of using this property as a dove field.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to accept the return of funds to the OCCB and to authorize the County Administrator to execute a Recission of Grant Agreement in relation to a grant made by the Oconee County Conservation Bank for the purchase of property commonly referred to as the Lyles Tract.

PRT Commission State and Local ATAX Recommendations FY2024

Amount \$ 1,039,998.00

These requests were unanimously approved by the PRT Commission on 05/4/23.

PRT Commission and PRT staff recommends \$566,546 from Local ATAX for the FY24 Local ATAX Supplemental budget (attached) for routine expenditures eligible to offset general fund expenditures. Grant cycles and project specific funds will continue to be recommended at the quarterly meetings.

PRT Commission and PRT staff recommends \$326,452 from the 65% State ATAX Fund and an estimated \$147,000 from the 30% ATAX Fund for a total of \$473,452 for the FY24 Visit Oconee SC Budget. The 65% Funds are utilized for salaries to operate the Visit Oconee office and are reimbursed to the County quarterly. The 30% Funds, by state law, are specifically for tourism advertising and promotion, distributed quarterly and are market dependent.

Local ATAX balance including encumbrances as of 5.1.23 = \$572,824.86

Local ATAX FY24 Revenue projection is \$1,095,000

65% State ATAX balance as of 5.5.22 = \$425,677

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65% State ATAX FY24 Revenue projection = \$330,000

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the ATAX recommendations from the PRT Commission.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the ATAX recommendation from the PRT Commission.

Title: Procurement #: RFP 22-02 Third Party Plan Review

Department(s):

Planning

Amount: TBD

There is no dollar amount associated with this approval. If the applicant requests an expedited review, the fees will be the responsibility of the applicant. If the Planning Department requests a review, it will be paid from the Planning Department's Professional budget code.

The Oconee County Planning Department has experienced an increase in building applications and anticipates future workload increases. This request is for an as-needed, qualified firm to aid the County in review of plans submitted for residential or commercial building applications. This will ensure plans are reviewed in a timely manner for applicants and to provide additional support for citizens and staff.

Request for Proposals, RFP 22-02, for Third Party Plan Review – Planning requested qualified firms to provide Plan Review Services when requested by the applicate.

RFP 22-02 was issued on November 10, 2022, and sent to nine (9) firms, five proposals were received. An Evaluation Committee consisting of County Staff, reviewed and scored the proposals and recommended Procurement and Planning move forward with fee negotiations with the top two ranked firms. Staff proceeded with negotiations and the top ranked firm was unable to provide fees as requested and in the format used by the Planning Department. Staff is recommending award to the second ranked firm, Seamon, Whiteside and Associates, Inc., contingent on approval of 2023-2024 Budget, Planning Fee Schedules.

Plan review services shall include, but not limited to, site plans, residential subdivisions, mixed use district plans, storm water plans, road plans, Industrial Park plan reviews, Architectural Review Board (ARB) reviews, and Overlay zoning district reviews.

When the Planning Department has a plan to review and the applicant wants to expedite the review, they can request a Third Party Plan Review. The fee for this expedited review will be collected, at the time of application submission and paid, by the County to the Awarded Firm on a monthly basis. If subsequent reviews are required, the fee will be collected prior to the review.

The fees are as follows:

\$1,500.00 First Two Rounds of Review

\$500.00 Subsequent Reviews (each)

There may be times when the Planning Department will need to utilize this contract and the fees associated will be the same as the fees proposed by the Awarded Firm. When the Planning Department requests a review, it will be paid from the Planning Department's Professional budget code.

This contract will begin July 1, 2023 and end June 30, 2024. The County has the option to renew for up to four (4) one-year terms, providing the services are satisfactory.

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

- 1. Approve the award of RFP 22-02 for Third Party Plan Review to Seamon, Whiteside & Associates of Greenville, SC., contingent on approval of 2023-2024 Budget, Planning Fee Schedules.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract documents and to renew this contract for up to four (4) one-year renewals, providing the services provided are satisfactory.*

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Mr. Mize made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve the award of RFP 22-02 for Third Party Plan Review to Seamon, Whiteside & Associates of Greenville, SC., contingent on approval of 2023-2024 Budget, Planning Fee Schedules and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract documents and to renew this contract for up to four (4) one-year renewals, providing the services provided are satisfactory.

Mr. Hart commented that the County used to perform this service in-house.

Ms. Brock confirmed Mr. Hart's comment but noted that the on-staff engineers that assisted in performing this service have since left the County, plus the Planning and Zoning Department is down two employees.

Ms. Brock went on to state that if a developer wanted an expedited plan review, they would be able to go directly to the above requested third party, noting this would be at the developer's expense and not the County's.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

~~Title: Two (2) New Holland Tractors with Side Mount Side Mowers~~

~~Department: Roads & Bridges~~

~~Amount: Tractor: \$151,395.98~~

~~———— Mower: \$ 96,868.06~~

~~———— Total: \$ 248,264.04~~

~~Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget process.~~

~~Funding from Capital Equipment/Vehicle Fund (325)~~

~~Budget: \$248,264.04 — Project Cost: \$248,264.04 — Balance: \$0.00~~

~~These New Holland Powerstar Tractors with Tiger Side Mount Side Mowers will be used by the Mowing Crew for vegetation management along the 660 miles of County maintained right of ways. These tractors are replacing two (2) 2011 John Deere mowing tractors (210.04 — 4,472 hours and 210.08 — 5,531 hours), which will be sold as surplus or used in other County departments. The year model of the tractor and mower will be a 2023 or 2024 depending on the actual production date.~~

~~CNH Industrial America, LLC (New Holland) currently holds a State Contract for Large Tractors, contract number 4400024245, which offers 28% off list price. This SC State Contract allows government agencies to purchase directly from the manufacturer or authorized dealers. Old Stone Tractor of Anderson, SC is an authorized New Holland dealer. Old Stone Tractor will set up, deliver and service the equipment for any warranty work required.~~

~~Tiger Corporation currently holds a Sourcewell Contract for tractor mounted mowers, contract number 070821 TGR; which offers 18% off list price. Sourcewell allows the Tiger Side Mount Mower to be sold and installed by Tiger Corporation Authorized dealers. Old Stone Tractor of Anderson, SC is an authorized dealer for Tiger tractor mounted mowers and will install, deliver and service the Tiger Side Mount Mower for any warranty work required.~~

~~The Vehicle Maintenance Director has reviewed and approves this purchase.~~

~~It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of Two (2) New Holland Tractors and Two (2) Tiger Side Mount Mowers from Old Stone Tractor of Anderson, SC per SC State Contract Number 4400024245 and Sourcewell Contract Number 070821-TGR, for a total purchase price of \$248,264.04.~~

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Council Committee Reports

Budget, Finance & Administration Committee / Mr. Elliott April 18, 2023

Mr. Elliott provided information outlining discussions held at the May 2, 2023, Budget, Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

Board & Commission Appointments

Agricultural Advisory Board

District IV: No questionnaires on file for this seat

Executive Session:

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 – 0, to enter into Executive Sessions for the following purposes, as allowed for § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

- 1. Receive legal advice and discuss personnel matter related to boards and commissions.*
- 2. Discussion regarding a contractual matter related to the City of Seneca, the City of Walhalla, the City of Westminster and the Town of Salem.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Council

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